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NEWS

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SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

VOLUME 7

MAY-JUNE 1974

JUL 1 8 1974

NUMBER 3

Welfare Official Tells APWA State Action is the Key

"The key is state action," Robert B. Carleson, commissioner of welfare for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, told more than 300 persons attending the Mountain States Regional Conference of the American Public Welfare Association.

The conference was held June 2, 3 and 4 in Great Falls. It was attended by representatives from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana.

Carleson won national recognition for creating and administering a welfare reform program, begun in 1971, which in two years cut California's welfare rolls by 265,000—the opposite of the national trend—and saved the state about \$1 billion.

"I believe," Carleson said to the group, "in keeping 'people programs' close to the people. This is the way welfare must be administered."

Two of the things Carleson pointed out as being obstructions to federal administration of welfare, particularly the Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) program, concern 1) recognizing and meeting immedi-



*ROBERT B. CARLESON,
HEW Commissioner of Welfare*

ate needs of the people and 2) sharing in fiscal responsibility for assistance programs.

Recently the federal government took over from the states administration of assistance programs for the aged, blind and disabled. Carleson said he feels the states probably could do better jobs of administering these programs too, however AFDC is different. Most of the AFDC families' needs are temporary. Most of the aged, blind and disabled are in need of continual assistance.

The welfare commissioner emphasized that each state is unique in its problems and solutions and the smaller states, such as those in this region, different from the larger ones.

"When a family has a need," Carleson said, "the need is now. When the need is over, the need is over now." Only state and local welfare administrations can recognize and quickly respond to these conditions, he noted.

As for paying for welfare programs and the related resources necessary to get people on their feet, Carleson stated that if the state and local governments don't share the responsibilities of a portion of the grants, the funds for social services and resources may lose out in the competition for state and local funds.

Carleson believes, as he told APWA, that the way to reduce the welfare rolls and save money is not to slash the rolls right and left but to close the loopholes and more closely verify eligibility. This, he said, is what California has been doing, and the rolls have dropped almost steadily since the welfare

(Continued on page 13
Related Stories on page 8 and 9)

Frank Sennett Resigns As SRS Deputy Director

A couple of months of writing and reading and some quiet time for reflection and enjoying nature are what SRS Deputy Director Frank Sennett is looking forward to as he resigned his position this month with the state's human services department.

Sennett and his wife Leslie will share duties this summer as lookouts at Union Peak in the Garnet Mountains outside Missoula. Their two children will accompany them.

served for three months as acting chief of the Aging Services Bureau.

Among the committees, boards and councils to which he has given his time are: the Montana Task Force on Delinquency Prevention and Youth Development, the Montana Family Planning Training Team, the Human Resources Team of the Montana Energy Advisory Council, the Human Resources Advisory Group for the Montana League of Cities and Towns, and the Montana Associa-

Forrest H. Anderson, as which, among other responsibilities, he coordinated the state's human resource programs.

In this position, Sennett was instrumental in creating the Montana Manpower Planning Council, the Montana Advisory Council for Children and Youth, the Montana Migrant Committee and the Governor's Task Force on Indian Problems.

From there he came to SRS.

Sennett loves people and although his plans at the close of the summer have not yet been finalized, he intends to continue to work with and for them.

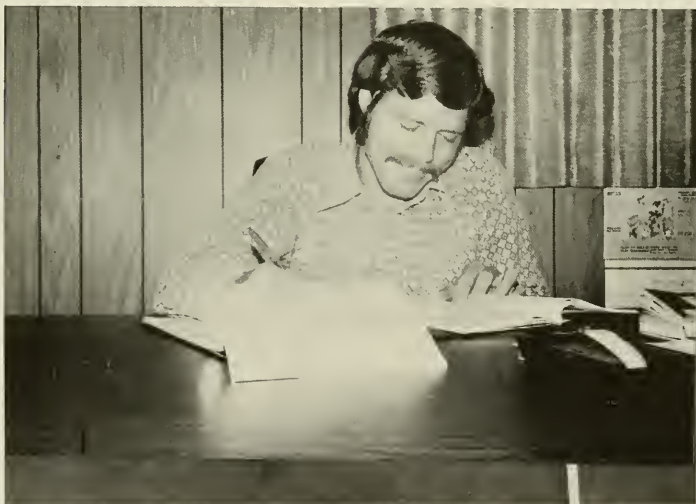
Decision Made On Co-Payment For Prescriptions

For the past several months low-income persons, pharmacists and Medicaid personnel have been debating the fate of the 50 cent recipient co-payment for prescription drugs.

June 1, 1974, the following policy regarding the fee was announced by Theodore Carkulis, director, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services, the agency which administers Medicaid. This new policy now is in effect.

It says that each Medicaid recipient may have two prescriptions each month filled free of charge at the pharmacy of his choice. All additional prescriptions purchased during the month must be accompanied by a 50 cent co-payment.

(Continued on page 4)



FRANK SENNETT, Deputy Director, SRS

Sennett became deputy director of SRS at the department's creation in 1971. The job led him over a wide range of responsibilities within the department.

He helped design and implement the SRS Community Services Division and for 9 months served as its acting administrator. He also

tion for Social Concerns.

In 1968 Sennett was graduated with high honors in history from the University of Montana.

The following year he began his career in state government as assistant secretary to the Montana Senate. From there he was appointed administrative assistant to Gov.

Sennett Bids So Long

To: All SRS Employees, Associates and Friends:

I will be resigning from my position as deputy director of Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services on June 7, 1974.

I have been with this agency as its first deputy director since the creation of SRS November 1, 1971. I am extremely proud to have been associated with the department. It has taken the leadership in the human resource field in the state of Montana. Being a leader has its price and we have all paid it by suffering through many, many changes in both policy and structure. These changes have been traumatic but in the long run they should positively benefit not only the agency but, if they are successful, they should greatly benefit the client.

I believe that SRS has some of the brightest and most capable employees of any agency in state government. I have appreciated being associated with so many fine and dedicated people who have made the effort to teach me so much. My special thanks to my boss Theodore Carkulis and to our secretaries Joan Easby and Janet Myren for putting up with me for so long. I shall always remember the people and the good and bad times we've shared even though much of it has been a vicarious sharing because of the almost physical impossibility of meeting every single one of you in such a short time.

I plan on continuing to work for humanistic policies and programs wherever my career takes me. Hopefully, someday not too long from now, if we all continue to work with compassion and dedication we can help build a truly liberated society—one free from poverty; one free from hunger both physical and mental; one with an equal chance and equal choices for every child, woman and man, and one that truly respects the dignity and freedom of each of us as individual human beings.

My best to all of you.



Frank R. Sennett
Deputy Director
Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services

Foster Parents Postage Stamp Before Congress

A bill providing for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp in recognition of foster family care has been introduced in Congress by Montana Rep. Richard Shoup (R-Missoula).

The bill, HR 12177, has been referred to the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

Spurring support of the stamp has been Ann Burds, Vista volunteer and state coordinator of foster care assigned to the Child Welfare Bureau, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The idea of a stamp, according to Margaret Stuart, chief, Child Welfare Bureau, was suggested in a foster care newsletter. "Ann," she says, "wrote her Congressmen in favor of the idea and encouraged other Montanans to do the same".

In his statement before the House of Representatives, Rep. Shoup praised foster parents as "highly motivated, self-giving individuals with a sincere desire to provide for children in need of temporary care with a happy and healthy family environment."

Persons interested in supporting the bill for the foster care commemorative stamp are asked to write their congressmen or: Chairman of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, Congressman Thaddeus Dulski, at the U.S. House of Representatives, Wash., D.C. 20515.

Letters also may be sent to Mrs. Mary M. Jamison, Secretary, Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, U.S. Postal Service, Wash. D.C. 20260.

Please Help . . .

The SRS News staff needs help with its mailing list. We know that some subscribers are inadvertently getting two copies. Also, many copies go to the last known address of persons now deceased. If you are getting two copies, or know of *copies going to waste because they are mailed to deceased persons, would you let us know? Please include the mailing labels if possible when requesting changes of address, or termination of subscription.*

Prompt Application For Social Security Urged by SS Official

Some employers won't hire people unless they have a social security number so students and others planning to get summer jobs should apply for a number now if they don't already have one, according to Jack P. Sharp, social security district manager in Helena.

"Delaying your application might prevent your employment or cause you to lose time and wages in a job requiring a social security number," Sharp says. "When you don't recall having had a social security number before, your application is screened against central files in Baltimore to make sure a second number isn't issued to you—and screening takes time.

"You should apply for your social security number at least several weeks before you need it for a job," he emphasizes. "You can get information about applying by calling, writing, or visiting any social security office."

People applying for a social security number for the first time will be asked to prove their age, identity, and citizenship, according to Sharp, and should take their birth certificate with them in applying for their social security card.

A worker builds disability, survivors, retirement, and Medicare protection by work and earnings credited to his social security number. He gets credit if he's paid \$50 or more in a 3-month calendar quarter in work covered by social security.

More than nine out of 10 jobs are covered by social security.

Prescription Co-Payment

(Continued from page 2)

Before receiving his free prescriptions, the recipient must indicate on his Medicaid I.D. card the name of the pharmacy from which he wishes to have his prescription filled. The pharmacy selected by the recipient to fill the free prescriptions will mark the recipient's card to show that these prescriptions have been provided. If the recipient does not have his I.D. card with him when he requests his free prescriptions, the druggist must charge the 50 cents.

Additional prescriptions filled during the month at the same or other drugstores will require the 50 cent co-payment from the recipient.

The free prescriptions cannot be accumulated. Two will be allowed each month and there may be no carry over, according to Bill Ikard, chief, SRS Medical Assistance Bureau.

Persons who need regular medication, such as digitalis or insulin, are encouraged to get as large a supply as possible the first time around whenever their prescription runs out.

The policy adjustment in the co-payment came about because of

the difficulty in meeting the 50 cent charge by low-income families with several members and with large medical expenses. Many aged recipients, for instance, use five or six different kinds of medicine each month, says Ikard.

The change in policy began about the first of the year with a petition for change from low-income people throughout the state who wanted the original charge of 50 cents for each prescription reduced or eliminated. A public hearing was held after which a plan was proposed to reduce the co-payment to 25 cents.

Upon that proposal, another public hearing was held and it was determined that a 25 cent charge on all prescriptions was not satisfactory either. It was then that this current policy of two free prescriptions was determined.

According to Jack Carlson, administrator, SRS Economic Assistance Division, "The majority of the recipients take pride in paying for their drugs, but for some of them the payment does present a definite hardship. That is why we've changed the policy."

GI Loans Now Easier to Get

The Veterans Administration reminds married home-minded veterans that it now is easier to qualify for GI home loans.

Charles C. Walter, director of the Fort Harrison VA Center, noted VA now accords full recognition to incomes and expenses of both veteran and spouse in determining ability to repay loan obligations.

Walter says VA is required by law to determine if contemplated terms of repayment bear a proper relation to the veteran's anticipated

income and expenses before approving the loan.

"But while the spouse's income has always been considered," the director explains, "local rules sometimes had the effect of discounting the spouse's income."

VA guarantees 60 per cent of (G.I.) home loans (maximum \$12,500) private lenders make to servicemen, veterans and eligible spouses of World War II, Korean and post-Korean Conflicts and the Vietnam Era.

MCM Enables Deaf to Telephone



JIM PEDERSON, deaf counselor for SRS, types out a message on a communications device that allows the deaf to telephone.

lit letters on the MCM's narrow screen, much like that of a calculator.

A monitor light indicates the status of a call as it is being made—dial tone, busy or ringing.

The machine runs on rechargeable batteries.

Rehabilitative Services has a pair of MCMs valued at about \$600 each. One is in the home office in Helena. The other is carried throughout the state by Jim Pederson, deaf counselor for SRS. Pederson's first call on the new MCM was to Oakland, Ca., from where the equipment was purchased.

The Montana School for the Deaf and Blind in Great Falls now is considering purchasing an MCM, say Rehabilitative Services personnel.

Communications by telephone are possible for deaf persons and those with speech and hearing impairments by use of a new device recently purchased by the Rehabilitative Services Division, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The communications equipment, perhaps the first of its kind in Montana, consists of a compact, lightweight Manual Communications Module (MCM) including a keyboard similar to that of a typewriter, a reusable magnetic tape and a cassette recorder.

It functions by laying the receiver of any telephone, even in a phone booth, in the cradle of the MCM. By phoning a number which also has an MCM, words can be exchanged by typing out messages which appear in brightly

RESPONSE to a phone call from Jim Pederson is typed out on the MCM by Margarite "Spot" Jones, Rehabilitative Services.



New Hiring Technique Used By YD Bureau



BILLINGS MAYOR Joseph Leone, signs the contract by which Youth Development worker Mary Anne Hager was hired. Awaiting his signature is Theodore Carkulis, director, SRS.

A new concept in hiring has been adopted by the Youth Development Bureau of Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The process by which Mary Anne Hager was hired as Billings' new Youth Development worker assures acceptance and credibility by community services and human resource agencies within the locality, according to Shirley Miller, chief, Youth Development Bureau.

Mary Anne and other Youth

Development workers will serve as resource and information people. They will help to coordinate the activities of various youth service organizations and agencies. Their goal and that of the Youth Development Bureau is to prevent duplication of services so that funds and energies can be consolidated for more effectiveness.

Mary Anne, for instance, keeps track of grants that are available and provides information and

assistance on starting various programs for youth.

In hiring Mary Anne, the state YDB staff coordinated its efforts with the heads of Billings agencies and with the Billings mayor's office. The result was a mutual acceptance of the Youth Development worker.

Day-to-day supervision of the position comes from a community organization specialist who is a staff member of the Yellowstone Council for Community Services. The Youth Development Bureau has ultimate supervision.

(Continued on page 7)

Montana Becomes General Creditor Through Decision Of Supreme Court

The priority of the state in recovering welfare assistance from the estates of deceased recipients has been reduced to that of general creditor by a recent Montana Supreme Court decision.

The decision provides that liens against property are unenforceable due to passage of House Bill 60 by the 1973 Legislature.

The Supreme Court made its ruling as the result of a class-action suit challenging the constitutionality of the 1973 law removing welfare liens. The suit was filed by Theodore Carkulis, director of Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services, who said the legislature could not retroactively make it impossible to enforce welfare liens on property. The high court ruled that the retroactive process is constitutional under the 1972 constitution. (Continued on page 11)

Governor to Host Aging Conference September 12, 13,

Development and problem-solving at the local level will be the focus of the 6th Annual Governor's Conference on Aging Sept. 12 and 13 at Fairmont Hot Springs, halfway between Butte and Anaconda.

In conjunction, the Montana Senior Citizens Association will hold its state business meeting. The association will meet from 10 a.m. to noon on the 12th. The Governor's Conference will begin at 1:30 that afternoon.

Principal speakers for the aging conference will be William Oriol, staff director, U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging; Governor Thomas L. Judge, and Lt. Governor Bill Christiansen.

Dan Kelly, chief, Aging Services Bureau, and Claude Williams, president, Montana Senior Citizens Association, are co-chairmen for the conference.

Attendance will be limited this year to 400, and registration, which may be done by mail, will close August 31, according to the co-chairmen. Registration fee is \$12.50 and includes everything but the cost of a room. Persons wishing to attend may register for the conference itself by sending the fee to Jane Anderson, 103 Main Street, Anaconda, Mt. 59711. Broken down, the registration fee covers: evening banquet, \$6.75; noon banquet, \$3.25; tip for both banquets, \$1; two coffee breaks, 30 cents; convention badges, 67 cents; program and supplies, 53 cents. No individual tickets will be sold for any event. Persons must pay the entire \$12.50, the co-chair-

men note.

Room reservations are separate and may be made by sending to Fairmont Hot Springs the form at the end of this article.

Kelly points out that rooms in the Fairmont hotel are spacious and can easily accommodate as many as six persons. Several persons may share a room thereby cutting down on the expense.

The conference will consist of eight workshops and two general sessions with three main speakers, Judge, Oriol and Christiansen. Because of limited space, persons unable to find room in the main hall with the speakers and where

(Continued on page 12)

Fraud, Non-Support Recoveries Made In Welfare Cases

A preliminary joint report on the investigation of suspected welfare fraud and non-support in Montana has been issued by the state Departments of Revenue and Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Under a law passed by the 1972 Legislature, SRS has the authority to turn such cases over to the Department of Revenue for investigation. The investigative activities are jointly funded.

During the present fiscal year a total of 471 cases involving \$70,258 have been referred to the revenue department by SRS. This announcement comes from W. A. Groff, Acting Director, Department of Revenue, and Theodore Carkulis, Director, SRS.

Of the 471 referrals, their report says, 51 involved purported fraud. The others, with the exception of one forgery, involved non-support by a responsible parent. This parent usually was the father, the SRS Director notes.

Currently, according to the two departments, eleven of these cases are in the hands of county attorneys.

"The emphasis of this cooperative effort", Carkulis mentions, "is (Continued on page 16)

YD Worker

(Continued from page 6)

Mary Anne was in contact with key community agencies from the day she began her job as a result of her association with the Yellowstone Council for Community Services. The Council is the official review body for the Billings Commission for Community Affairs.

The draft of the contract under which Mary Anne was hired was drawn up by representatives of the various agencies throughout Billings and signed by SRS and the mayor's office. YDB and the agencies worked jointly on the entire hiring process.

"We've found that this method of hiring insures community agency cooperation with our program from the first," says Mrs. Miller. "It's a great way to develop inter-agency cooperation and coordination and definitely has made Mary Anne's entry into the Billings community much easier."

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American Public Welfare

Former HEW Secretary Urges Local Involvement

"With retirements and changes in positions there will be at least 100 new faces in Congress next year," predicted Wilbur Cohen, former secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and now dean of the School of Education, University of Michigan.

"Get acquainted with these new faces," Cohen urged. "Let them know welfare personnel have something to contribute."

Cohen addressed the closing session of the regional American Public Welfare Association conference June 2, 3 and 4 in Great Falls.

Cohen, who is president-elect of APWA, said there is much social legislation—some very controversial—that will be coming before Congress in the next few years, and people at the state and local levels must let their views be known.

During his upcoming tenure as president of APWA, Cohen said he wants to maximize the role of the grassroots personnel in the decision-making process. "We're very well accepted at the congressional level," he told the group, "but I'd like to see us have major roles at both the congressional and executive levels."

Cohen gave a brief rundown of some of the social legislation coming before Congress, including welfare reform and national health insurance.

Welfare reform, he reported, is basically dead in Congress at the present time. The only prospects

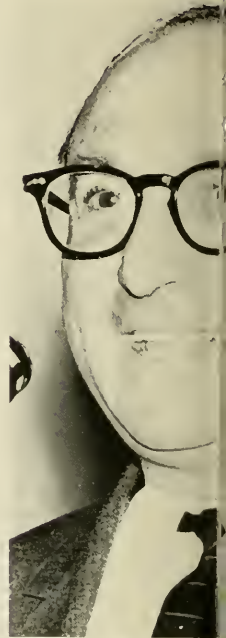
for this issue right now are for amendments to current laws.

As far as national health insurance is concerned, the questions now, he commented, are when and how should it be delivered and financed. Cohen mentioned that Montana's Sen. Mike Mansfield, leader of the Senate, is co-sponsor of the Mills-Kennedy proposal for national health insurance.

The former HEW secretary noted that despite the turmoil in the current federal administration, there are many, many intelligent, hardworking, responsible people in the executive and legislative branches, and, certainly, all of government should not be condemned.

Cohen went on to list the Congressmen who have special interest and influence in welfare and social services legislation and he again stressed the importance of writing and talking to them. He pointed out the advisability of expressing our views on any issue to our Congressmen before the matter becomes hot and widely debated. This way, as Cohen noted, the Congressmen have more time to mull over the correspondence.

In addition to Mansfield, Cohen named the following as good contacts in the welfare-social services areas: Sen. Carl T. Curtis, R-Neb., who next year will become the ranking member of the Senate



WILBUR COHEN
APWA president
former secretary of HEW



CHARLES CURTIS
out-going president

(Continued on page 13)

e Regional Conference

Northwest Federation For Human Services To Be Effective July 1

Formation of the Northwest Federation for Human Services was announced during the American Public Welfare Association Conference in Great Falls.

Roy E. Haney, administrator, Region IV, Idaho Environmental and Community Services, said the organization will swing into action July 1, to help states eliminate duplication of energies and services. The Federation, Haney explained, will maintain the states' diversity while sharing common goals and concepts for providing the highest possible level of effective human services.

Member states are: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, North and South Dakota, Montana and Colorado.

Through the Federation, said Haney, it is hoped the member states will be able to promote better cooperation between federal and state agencies.

(Continued on page 13)

Montana was presented this year's membership award during the recent American Public Welfare Association's regional conference in Great Falls.

Membership chairman John Konecny, Miles City, accepted the award plaque for the state.

Blackfeet Entertained For APWA



*MRS. EARL OLDPERSON
and her son Earl, Jr. sing for
the Blackfeet dancers.*

YOUNG BLACKFEET DANCER



*HELEN,
President and
Secretary of HEW*



*BIRKINS,
President of APWA*

Foster Children's Bill of Rights Signed by Lt. Gov. and SRS Head

The Bill of Rights for Foster Children has been signed by Lt. Gov. Bill Christiansen and Theodore Carkulis, director, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The signing took place recently at the first meeting of the newly formed Montana State Foster Parent Organization. The local ratification re-enacted a national ceremony held last year at Congress Hall in Philadelphia.

The bill of rights contains ten articles and guarantees foster children the same rights enjoyed by children living in their own homes.

Ann Burds Named By Foster Parents



ANN BURDS

Ann Burds, Vista volunteer and state coordinator of foster care assigned to the Child Welfare Bureau, Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services, has been

Bill of Rights for Foster Children

Ratified in Congress Hall, Philadelphia
Saturday, the Twenty-eighth of April, Nineteen hundred and seventy three

EVERY more than for other children, society has a responsibility along with parents for the well-being of foster children. Everyone are responsible for acting to insure their welfare.
EVERY foster child is endowed with the rights inherently belonging to all children. In addition, because of the temporary or permanent separation from and loss of parents and other family members, the foster child requires special safeguards, resources, and care.

EVERY FOSTER CHILD HAS THE INHERENT RIGHT:

- Article the first: ... to be cherished by a family of his own, either his family helped by readily available services and supports to reassure his care, or an adoptive family or by plan, a continuing foster family.
- Article the second: ... to be nurtured by foster parents who have been selected to meet his individual needs and who are provided services and supports, including specialized education, so that they can grow in their ability to enable the child to reach his potential.
- Article the third: ... to receive sensitive, continuing help in understanding and accepting the reasons for his own family's inability to take care of him, and in developing confidence in his own self-worth.
- Article the fourth: ... to receive continuing loving care and respect as a unique human being and a child growing in trust in himself and others.
- Article the fifth: ... to grow up in freedom and dignity in a neighborhood of people who accept him with understanding, respect and friendship.
- Article the sixth: ... to receive help in overcoming deprivation or whatever distortion in his emotional, physical, intellectual, social and spiritual growth may have resulted from his early experiences.
- Article the seventh: ... to receive education, training, and career guidance to prepare him for a useful and satisfying life.
- Article the eighth: ... to receive preparation for citizenship and parenthood through interaction with foster parents and other adults who are consistent role models.
- Article the ninth: ... to be represented by an attorney at law in administrative or judicial proceedings with access to fair hearings and court review of decisions, so that his best interests are safeguarded.
- Article the tenth: ... to receive a high quality of child welfare services, including involvement of the natural parents and his own involvement in major decisions that affect his life.

ATTEST:

Bruce H. Hall
MEMBER NATIONAL ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN COMMITTEE

Mrs. James M. (Mae) Cox
MEMBER NATIONAL ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN COMMITTEE

Fredrick (Sam) D.
ATTORNEY AT LAW, CHILDREN'S BUREAU

elected Region VIII professional representative for the National Foster Parents Association Board of Directors.

She was chosen at the National

Foster Parents Association conference held the end of April in Spokane. The conference was attended by about 2,000 persons

(Continued on page 11)



SRS DIRECTOR Theodore Carkulis and Lt. Gov. Bill Christiansen sign the local reatification of the Bill of Rights for Foster Children.

Welfare Liens Removed

(Continued from page 6)

The court's decision means that welfare liens will be removed retroactive to July 1, 1953. The State of Montana still, however, may file a claim against the estate of a deceased person who had been receiving old-age assistance or aid to the disabled between the time of July 1, 1953 and July 1, 1973.

A general release to cover all welfare liens has been filed in each county, according to Thomas Mahan, attorney for Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services which handles welfare. "This system," Mahan says, "will be used because of the large cost and amount of time it would take to file individual releases for some 100,000 liens now on file. Individual releases, however, will be filed on request."

The department, Mahan further explains, still will settle claims in advance upon request, and in such cases no claim will be submitted

against the estate.

House Bill 60, upon which the ruling was made, does not remove the claim of the department of SRS against the estate of recipients. It only removes the lien itself and the priority of the department in the payment of claims against estates. SRS now must submit a general creditor's claim against estates for the amount of assistance given.

Prior to passage of House Bill 60 which became effective July 1, 1973, an individual in order to receive old age assistance or aid to the disabled, had to become indebted to the state through a lien if he had any real property. A lien is a legal right to hold property for repayment of a claim. Upon death of the recipient and his or her spouse the state then had the legal right to regain the cost of the assistance from the estate of the deceased.

Burds Named

(Continued from page 10)
from throughout the nation.

During Ms. Burds' two-year term, she will serve as general consultant to the six-state region on such matters as social service practices, communications and association rules and regulations.

Ms. Burds is responsible for the recent organization of the Montana Foster Parents Association, which, according to the Child Welfare Bureau chief, Margaret Stuart, is "something we've wanted for a long time".

More than 900 children are in foster homes in Montana. There are about 950 to 1,000 licensed foster homes in the state.

Learning Program By Correspondence For Parents Having Deaf-Blind Children

Parents of deaf-blind children now can receive help in educating their children through a new "Correspondence Learning Program for Parents of Preschool Deaf-Blind Children".

Available in English and Spanish, the program is free of charge to parents and is designed to be used at home. It also may be used as a reference for professionals working with families.

The program covers such learning skills as communication, motor development and self-care including eating, sleeping, dressing, toilet training and personal hygiene. Drawings illustrate use of hand signs, games and every day activities for skill development.

Parents of deaf-blind children may enroll free by writing to John Tracy Clinic, 806 West Adams, Los Angeles, California 90007.

Spring Wedding Makes History In Masonic Home

Strains of the "Wedding March" tenderly filled the chapel of the Helena Masonic Home as Lela Smith and Joseph H. McDonald joined hands in marriage April 18.

It was the first wedding ever to take place in the Masonic Home's 68-year history.

The couple met in the residence and grew to know each other through their common interests, which include a mutual enjoyment of playing cards.

The chapel was brimming with well-wishers as "I Love You Truly" was sung to the couple and they took their vows.

The groom's daughter Shirley O'Neil of Butte was matron of honor. Her son Jim was his grandfather's bestman. The bride was "given away" by Bill Cainan, superintendent of the Masonic Home, who the week before had escorted his daughter to the altar.



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH MCDONALD were wed April 18 in the Helena Masonic Home. The wedding was a first in the 68-year history of the residence.

Resource Book Now Available For Seniors

A 118-page booklet listing resources available to Montana senior citizens has been published by the Aging Services Bureau and is available for \$2.50 a copy.

The book, which will be published yearly, lists names and addresses of the Montana Aging Services Advisory Council, the Aging Services staff and area agency staff and directors; the Aging Services Bureau projects through-out the state; Montana congressional districts and state elected officials; Indian reservations; names and addresses of county aging council directors; senior citizen centers; long-term care facilities throughout the state, and various associations and organizations that may be of interest or assistance to senior citizens.

Also listed in the book are statistics on income in Montana and on retirement benefits.

The book was compiled by the Research, Education and Resource Section of the Aging Services Bureau. Requests for the publication may be sent to that section at: P. O. Box 1723, Helena, MT 59601.

are Bill Walker, Earl Hubley, Hidde Van Duym, Holly Luck, Jane Anderson, Jerrie Peretto and John St. Jermain.

The first day of the conference, general sessions will be held from 1-3:30 p.m. Workshops will be from 3:45-5 p.m. Friday there will be a general session from 9-10 a.m. and workshops from 10:15 to noon. The conference will adjourn at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 13.

Governor's Conference on Aging

(Continued from page 7)

general sessions are being held will be able to view the proceedings on closed circuit television. The Cable Television Association of Montana will provide this service for the senior citizens.

Workshops, according to Kelly, are being designed to help iron out problems around the state and to encourage more senior citizens to become involved in the various projects and activities. Kelly will be conducting one of the workshops. All of these sessions are being planned for give-and-take and

hopefully, senior citizens will be anxious to participate.

Other workshops will be conducted by Randy Bowsher, program planning specialist; Becky Clark, advisor, Foster Grandparents Program; Rich King, resource specialist; Jim O'Rourke, supervisor, county and area councils, and his staff assistants from the western and eastern districts; Mary Feuer-singer, nutrition specialist, and Walter Marshall, information-education specialist. Area agency heads also will participate. They

Registration Form For Aging Meet

RATES:

Single	Double	3rd Person
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Carleson

(Continued from page 1)

reform program began in 1971. Carleson said if a state the size of California can be successful so can all the other states.

"California was a textbook example of the ills of public welfare," Carleson recalled. "Costs were rising 26 per cent a year and the annual welfare budget, over \$2 billion annually, was about to bankrupt the state."

Welfare benefits in California, he said, had not increased at all since 1958, and people who were not "truly needy" were using "ridiculous loopholes" to get on the welfare rolls.

By tightening eligibility requirements, California was able to greatly reduce its welfare rolls. As this happened, Carleson continued, a state tax increase was able to be prevented by the money saved. The savings led to a tax rebate and to 42 of California's 58 counties being able to reduce their property taxes the first year the reform was in effect.

According to Carleson, one of California's most significant realizations was that there was no "bottomless pit" of funds available for welfare. "We learned," he commented, "the more we spread the funds thin, the less those in need can have."

California now, the welfare

commissioner noted, has a cost of living benefit for its welfare recipients that adjusts in accordance with the standard of living. The reform program made this possible after 12 years without a single benefit.

Haney Announces NW Federation

(Continued from page 9)

It is important, he pointed out, for these states to band together because although they are broad in area they do not have large populations and large representation in Congress.

Haney, who was a substitute speaker at the conference, gave APWA members a brief rundown of proposed federal legislation affecting social services. He spoke in place of James Bax, head of the Idaho Department of Environmental and Community Services, who was in Seattle helping to work on the federal legislation during the National Governors Conference.

Haney also reported to APWA on the successes and the problems involved with Idaho's concept of an umbrella agency for human services, which covers health, rehabilitation, counseling and social services.

Regional Reps. Hired By SRS For Five Areas

The newly established Field Services Division of Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services has stationed five regional representatives around the state to coordinate SRS programs, projects and personnel with other human resource agencies.

Their aim, according to Jack

(Continued on page 16)

Cohen

(Continued from page 8)

Finance Committee; Sen. Wallace F. Bennett, R-Utah; Sen. Russell B. Long, D-La.; Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, D-Conn.; Rep. Wilbur Mills, D-Ark., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee; Rep. Al Ullman, D-Ore., who would be next in line for leadership of the Ways and Means Committee should something happen to Mills.

Work-Study Aids All.

Preparation for living is what the work-study program for educable mentally retarded students is all about.

By the time special education students reach high school age (16-21), they may enter the work-study portion of their education.

Local school districts and the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services coordinate with employers to provide work experience for retarded young persons potentially capable of holding down full-time employment.

Helena had one of the first such programs in the state, and John Kowalski, teacher-counselor at

Helena Senior High School, explains the program. Working with Kowalski is Jim Shope. Work-study programs, Kowalski says, are presently operating in 23 cities and towns throughout the state. Next year that number will increase to 25.

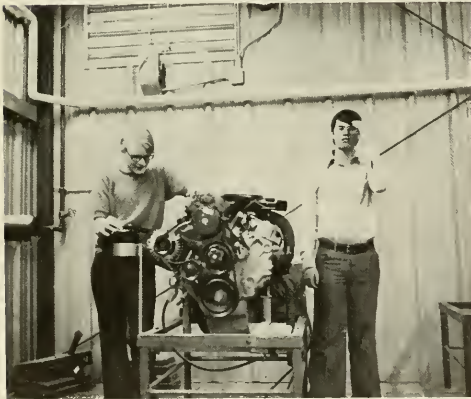
Eighteen youth currently are enrolled in the three-year work-study program at Helena High. Several students from Boulder River School who are living in group homes in Helena are participating this year.

The students spend their mornings, during the school year, says Kowalski, in basic academic work—mathematics, English and read-

ing for instance. Their studies, he explains, help to prepare them to live and work as independently as possible.

Some of the special education students are integrated into regular classes at the high school—for example, home economics and auto mechanics. They are encouraged to enter into extra-curricular activities—to attend athletic and drama events and music programs and to participate whenever possible. The idea is to help the students function on their own as a part of society, their instructors emphasize.

Afternoons are spent in job training positions with local employers. "Where they are placed,"



DALE STALEY and WAYNE HARWOOD are pictured in the auto mechanics course they studied this year at Helena Vo-Tech.

GERRIT LEIDLE is employed by one of Helena's Convenient Foods Mart where he is responsible for keeping the shelves stocked.



Around Development

the counselor mentions, "depends upon the students' ability and independence."

Students in Helena are working in bakeries, the high school art department, a drive-in restaurant, grocery stores, the state library, the college food service, Fort Harrison veterans' hospital, a tire company and as babysitters.

Kowalski says that in some of the jobs students may work up from their starting position and rate of pay. According to the Labor Department, employers may receive certification to hire work-study students for certain jobs for half the minimum wage. SRS may pay a portion of the students' salaries in certain instances.

In all cases, however, the students receive their checks directly from their employer.

"One of the program's basic philosophies," notes Kowalski, "is to develop as much independence as possible in the students."

"The students go through graduation at the completion of the coursework. The idea," the counselor continues, "is to have full employment upon graduation."

The instructors work with social workers, parents and foster parents of the students. "Sometimes," Kowalski says, "the social and emotional problems are worse than the employment problems."

He adds, however, that rapport

with the other high school students has been really great. They are mature enough to be able to understand the special ed kids."

Kowalski seems generally pleased with the program's success. He has just completed a follow-up study on the 18 youths who have participated in the work-study program during the six years he has been with work-study at the Helena high school. Of the graduates, two are in military service, three are employed at the sheltered workshop in Helena and all but two of the others are on full-time employment—most on the same job held at graduation. Of the two without work, Kowalski says one is accepting welfare.



CLINTON CONWAY has been working in the Goodie Shop bakery. Here he is shown regulating the dough machine.

KIM NEWCOME is in charge of the snack counter at the Helena Youth Center.



Nearly \$50,000 Saved By WIN In Welfare Costs

In Montana, 635 jobs have been found for welfare recipients through the Work Incentive Program (WIN), the U.S. Department of Labor has announced.

The WIN program stresses job placement as soon as possible for employable recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

David T. Duncan of the Manpower office in Denver says the WIN program in Montana is estimated to have saved nearly \$50,000 in welfare costs so far, and the program counts only the first-month savings made for each participant leaving the welfare rolls.

Regional Reps.

(Continued from page 13)

Carver, administrator of field services, is to improve human development services throughout the state. Human development includes rehabilitation services; community services incorporating child welfare, day care, youth development, family and adult

services and aging services; services to the developmentally disabled; visual services; legal services; medical assistance and welfare.

The regional representative system will assess the state's need for human development services, make certain they are provided and try to fill the gaps between existing services.

The five regional representatives and their headquarters are: Don Lee, Helena; Laulette Hansen, Great Falls; John Konecny, Miles City; Gary Walsh, Missoula, and Boyce Fowler, Billings.

Recoveries

(Continued from page 7)

on recovery rather than prosecution".

SRS is making a strong attempt to reduce the number of both inadvertent and intentional instances of fraud and negligence in paying support. The following steps, says Carkulis, have been taken:

—More caseworkers have been assigned to families receiving Aid to Dependent Children. This has become possible with the transfer of the adult categories to the federal government.

—"High risk" cases have been identified and are receiving more frequent review.

—More staff training is being

STATE OF MONTANA

SRS NEWS

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Thomas L. Judge Governor
Theodore P. Carkulis Director

Circulation 10,900 copies

Published by the Department of
Social and Rehabilitation Services

Susan Kirkpatrick Editor
Janet Moore Circulation Clerk

For information write
Information Unit
P. O. Box 1723
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conducted on interviewing techniques for eligibility determination.

—Several policy changes have been made to simplify eligibility determination.

The Revenue and SRS Directors also point out that through cooperation with the Employment Security Division, the Work Incentive Program (WIN) has been expanded and strengthened, allowing more persons to find jobs and leave the welfare rolls.

They note too that the last session of the legislature has strengthened their legal authority through subrogation which allows SRS to assume the rights of a parent to sue the other for payment of a child's support.

Address all communications to Information Unit, P. O. Box 1723, Helena, Montana 59601



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